

Open Living-in.EU Supporters Meeting

6 April 2022, 1400-1630 CET

Objectives: The Living-in.EU supporters meeting in April is open to all interested parties and serves as a good introduction for companies/suppliers who have not yet signed as supporters to get to know the Living-in.EU movement and understand how to engage in daily practice. The meeting specifically aims to (1) reach out to companies looking for ways to support cities in their green-digital transformation concretely by (a) responding to tenders as part of normal procurement and/or (b) validating the scale-out of data platforms and related services based on emerging local data ecosystems. It does so by (2) giving examples of how the Living-in.EU technical specifications and governance have been used in practice, delivered by both cities and companies as well as national authorities. The meeting will also give an update and outlook on the technical roadmap of the MIMs Plus.

Agenda

14.00 – 14.10 Welcome

- Eddy Hartog, Head of Unit, Technologies for Smart Communities, European Commission, DG CONNECT
- Martin Brynskov, Chair, Living-in.EU Technical Subgroup and Chair, Open & Agile Smart Cities (OASC)

14.10 – 14.25 State-of-play: Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities in Europe

- Policy update: Cristina Martinez, Deputy Head of Unit, Technologies for Smart Communities, European Commission, DG CONNECT – policies, initiatives, priorities, events
- Technical update: Status of the Living-in.EU Technical roadmap, MIMs Plus v5: Rick Schager, OASC

14:30 – 15:45 Roundtable: Getting practical with MIMs Plus in Procurement

- Presenters: Andreja Lampe, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Slovenia; Jan-Joost van Kan, Atos; Bart De Lathouwer, Rotterdam; Mikko Sierla, Vastuu Group; Ramón Ferri, Valencia; Mads Ockert Bonne, KMD
- Discussants: Anja De Cunto, Eurocities and Big buyers for climate and environment; Beatriz Barateiro, AIOTI; Omar Dhaher, European Digital SME Alliance

15:45 – 15:55 NetZeroCities

- Digital Solutions for Climate Neutrality – opportunities for Living-in.EU Supporters, Cornelia Dinca, OASC

15:55 – 16:20 Next steps

- Conformance and compliance: Michael Mulquin, OASC, & Serge Novaretti, European Commission
- Standardisation: Martin Brynskov, OASC

16.20 – 16.30 Conclusion

- Martin Brynskov, OASC

Welcome:

Eddy Hartog: The Living.in-EU movement has developed greatly, with 115 signatories on the website. A lot more interest is coming from the companies as well nowadays. Great to see the EU being active with this movement.

Martin Brynskov: Introducing the agenda. Bringing the buyers and suppliers together in the same room.

State-of-play: Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities in Europe

Cristina Martinez: Giving an overview of the policy side. The EC is launching the digital decade with a number of policy instruments, e.g. the AI Act, The Data Governance and Data Acts. Also a number of financial and operational instruments supporting the digital transformation. Three important messages:

1. The LIEU is shaped by its supporters and signatories.
 - Important that the supporters contribute to the work that is being done in the movement
2. From vision setting to procuring and deploying.
 - Scaling up existing solutions requires alignment on the principles and technologies.
3. Technological sovereignty is key more than ever
 - The EC wants to work on MIM-compatible EU-friendly standards and solutions

Next big event is the [European Regions for Smart Communities in Alentejo on May 9-14](#).

Rick Schager: Introducing the MIMs Plus Technical Roadmap. Starting point: in 2015, Eindhoven created Open Data Principles. Year later the Smart Society IoT Charter was created and then it was translated into the Dutch principles of digital society. Eindhoven shared the same open data principles as OASC, and therefore was one of the first to join the network.

Architectural part of MIMs Plus is a work in progress. MIMs 1-3 are a basic data platform in order. MIMs 4-6 are to safeguard public interest. All of this is to address societal challenges, so there needs to be an impact on society. From the business side of things, it's about addressing business models and maturity/technological readiness levels. To a real Open Urban Platform: from data to insight for decision support and accountability.

The Roundtable - Getting Practical with MIMs Plus in procurement

Jan-Joost van Kan: We need Minimal Interoperability Mechanisms in order to clearly communicate what we need as cities and how to cooperate without going into tremendous amounts of detail, because that will slow down the innovations. Cities like, Eindhoven, Nice and Hilversum, have made procurements based on standards. The MIMs are about putting functionality first and making technology neutral to prevent vendor lock-in.

Discussion and convergence on three levels:

1. Concepts - including legislation
2. Functional requirements
3. Technology interoperability

Anja De Cunto: How to get big companies share their data?

van Kan: Using the MIM10 - Resource Impact Assessment, we can make requirements on what those big companies need to do in order to share data. In the Gaia-X project we are trying to find a way to make everyone, incl. big companies, share their data which would land in the OASC shared data model without giving up their right to the data because of the monetization model. The monetization model still needs to be a sustainable model that can be scaled up to across the whole of Europe, not just one city.

De Cunto: How can companies improve their products with data sharing?

van Kan: Using the idea of the MIMs and MIMs Plus allows companies to tap into a bigger pool of other players that can help them accelerate their product development, no need to do everything on their own.

Andreja Lampe: Slovenia was the first country in Europe to have requested its cities to use CEF Context Broker and apply MIMs when implementing their strategies for smart cities and regions. This was done by having a vision and open dialogue between main stakeholders, focusing on innovation and identifying EU policies, such as relevant initiatives. Stakeholders agreed on a minimum common denominator, acceptable for all. Plenty of things support driving Slovenia digital: digital sector taking the lead, support from partners and initiatives like LIEU, community awareness activities, ... Political commitment as agreement of stakeholders was reached and supported by national call.

Beatriz Barateiro: How to plan a roadmap, that includes the cities, on a country level?

Lampe: In Slovenia, the big cities and small municipalities were greatly involved in the process of planning how to run the country's digital transformation.

Bart De Lathouwer: Urban digital twin is about creating a new reality - changing paradigm of the concept 'city'. It combines traditional city with physical, social and digital reality. Urban digital

twin is a smart model of the city + all the relevant data that comes with it. It describes the current physical reality of a city, based on real time data, so it's a digital copy of the physical city. At the moment, the city of Rotterdam is upscaling its learnings from projects like Espresso and Ruggedised towards procurement. Open Urban Platform is for and by the citizens of Rotterdam, and the data is owned by the platform itself. Rotterdam is procuring functional blocks that are system-integrated, not for a whole product.

Omar Dhafer: Since the cities are using the MIMs, how do you evaluate effectiveness of the MIMs to bring along SMEs to the tendering process and to allow them to access the market and to compete with the big players?

De Lathouwer: The MIMs create a platform of standards that enables a level playing field where everyone, both the big companies and the SMEs, are able to participate.

Dhafer: We need to make sure that SMEs are represented in creating the standards and make sure the interoperability is there.

De Lathouwer: Agreed, SMEs play an important role in creating the standards. In addition, standards are not anymore made for completeness, 80% is more than enough.

Mikko Sierla: 5 important points of open ecosystems working together:

1. Towards convergence
2. Small scale pilots, design and concept workshops
3. Practical implementations and value creation
4. Large scale pilots and scaling
5. Sustainable development and level playing field

Dhafer: What are the most important issues that you would like the standards to address?

Sierla: It's important to be part of the community where there's a lot of expertise and influence, and where you can be part of the early design phase.

Dhafer: Do you think the shift towards the European digital identity will help you as an SME to scale up and to offer your services to other cities (than Finnish ones)?

Sierla: Yes, our goal is to position ourselves in a large-scale implementation.

Ramón Ferri: Public tender on Urban Data Platform in 2013 with main characteristics: Open Platform, based on standards and open technologies, robustness and scalability, interoperability and heterogeneity. Also worked on open standards and technological specifications: the Spanish Committee for Standardization in Smart Cities was created, and one of the main standards, the Comprehensive Smart City Management System was approved in 2015. Work on international level: Requirements for interoperability of the smart city platforms was created in 2018. At the moment, the city of Valencia is using a connecting European facility context

broker building block for context information management, and it provides an opportunity to work in cross-sector services, which gives a holistic overview.

Barateiro: Do you share the results from your projects with the citizens? Are they involved in implementing these smart city solutions?

Ferri: Yes, many of the smart city solutions are focused on the citizens. Most of the solutions are providing functionalities for citizens.

Mads O. Bonne: From customers' perspective, many are interested in controlling their own data and being able to share it across departments and municipalities. We as a company try to provide shared open infrastructure with no vendor lock-in. It leads to faster development and open integrations to ecosystems. The openness also gives more opportunities for collaboration and value creation.

Brynskov: Could you tell about the dynamics of operating a system, but not building it?

O. Bonne: We care a lot about the system working and we take responsibility for it, and make sure the infrastructure around it is working, despite not being the ones to build the system.

NetZeroCities

Cornelia Dinca: The core NZC activities:

1. Mission platform
2. Climate-neutral city contracts
3. Pilot cities
4. Impact framework, learning approach, policy advocacy

Goal of the Knowledge Repository is to provide proven solutions that support cities in achieving climate neutrality.

Next steps

Michael Mulquin: The point of MIMs is to enable cities and communities of all sizes to benefit from an open market. At the moment there are 10 MIMs that are in different stages of development. Compliance and conformance in the context of MIMs: citizens and communities choosing to build their ecosystems in a way they conform with the MIMs, and companies ensuring their products and services comply with the MIMs. There needs to be enough guidance with MIMs, so that ecosystems can conform with them, as well companies products and services could be certified as MIMs-compliant. OASC sees that MIMs are not ready to roll

out until the conformance and compliance requirements are clear. Requirements should enable for example a company to check if their product is MIM-compliant, and this testing needs to be quick, easy and affordable.

Serge Novaretti: The EC supports the compliance and conformance requirements and testing, [for example by providing testbeds](#). In the upcoming months MIM-compliance validators are also being created.

Conclusion

Brynskov: It's good that there is a clear goal in developing the compliance and conformance requirements and the testing and validation of those requirements. In regards to the European Interoperability Framework, it's important to realize that smart cities and communities aren't just one sector of it, but they're all of the sectors: mobility and transport, energy and energy efficiency, safety and security, ...